



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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Mark Newton Band to Perform at Frying Pan Farm Park

The Mark Newton Band, an award winning bluegrass ensemble, will perform songs from their critically acclaimed album, *Hillbilly Hemingway*, at the Visitor Center on Saturday, August 11, 2007 from 8 to 10 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person. Come hear some of bluegrass music's best players, featuring Grammy-winner Clay Hess on guitar, Beth Lawrence on stand-up bass, Terry Baucom on five-string banjo, and Sierra Hull on mandolin. Two, 45-minute sets will showcase their strummin' and pickin' skills as they harmonize and take turns soloing.

Mark Newton, originally from Kentucky, moved to Fredericksburg, Virginia as a teenager and became heavily involved in music festivals. The respected, roots/acoustic musician gained national attention in 1988 with the release of his solo album, *Living A Dream*. Newton collaborated with Grammy-winning producer Carl Jackson to create *Hillbilly Hemingway*, regarded by many as the best album of Newton's career. Bucking the established bluegrass convention of avoiding drums, some tracks feature well-placed percussive elements. Newton's velvety tenor vocals skills are complemented by guest appearances by Rob Ickes on Dobro, Stuart Duncan on fiddle and Alecia Nugent on background vocals.

The auditorium's exposed wooden beams and 26-foot high ceilings create an intimate space to enjoy the band's balance of traditional bluegrass and progressive "new grass." The venue seats 200, so reservations are recommended. The doors open at 7 p.m. Dinner, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase.

The Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center in Herndon, Virginia began as a dairy barn when it was constructed in 1895. It later served as a church. The converted barn is now home to one of the most unique performance spaces in Northern Virginia and has become a hot tour stop for top bluegrass talent. The all-star ensemble Chesapeake recently played there to a sold out crowd. Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center is located at 2739 West Ox Road in Herndon. For tickets and information, call 703-437-9101.

Bluegrass has its roots in traditional Irish, Scottish and English music played by immigrants in the Appalachian Mountains. Each instrument takes a turn improvising on the melody with the other instruments backing. Harmonizing vocals sing about the human experience.

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